

19 Oct 73

George:

Since 27 January 1973, the North Vietnamese have --

- (1) Infiltrated a total of 74,000 additional main force troops into South Vietnam and adjacent border areas. Current Communist order-of-battle estimates are:

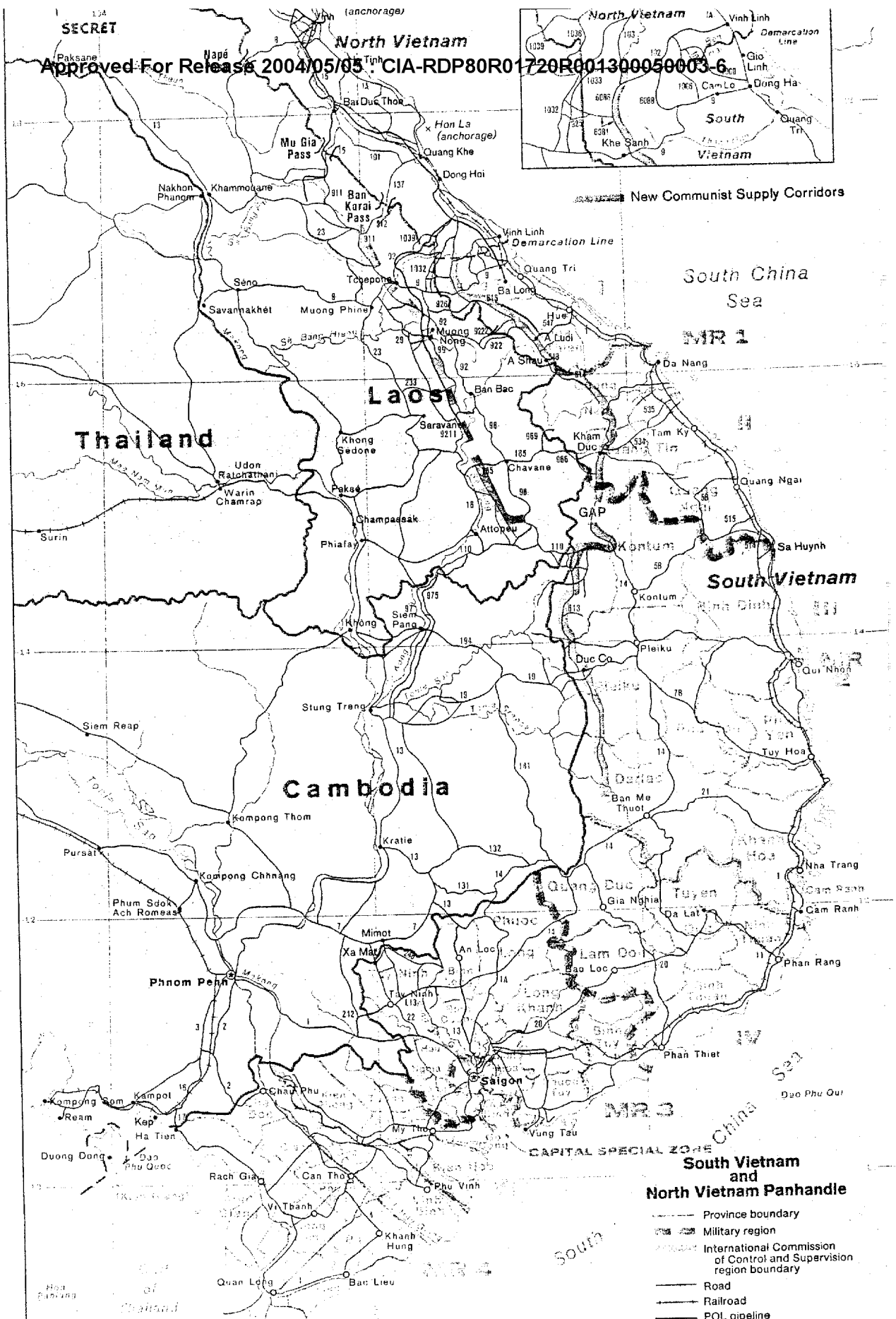
in <u>South Vietnam</u>	in <u>Laos</u>	in <u>Cambodia</u>
NVA 204,000	NVA 65,000	NVA 17,000
VC 71,000	PL 34,000	VC 4,000
		KC 49,000
Total 275,000	Total 99,000	Total 70,000

- (2) Moved 450 tanks into South Vietnam from the north. (When added to the 150 the NVA had left at the end of the 1972 offensive, this gives a total inventory of about 600 NVA tanks in SVN at present.) Most of the 450 tanks newly arrived this year moved in early last spring.
- (3) Moved 350-400 pieces of artillery (including a sizable number of 130 mm and 122 mm guns) into South Vietnam. (Most of these also moved in early last spring.)
- (4) Moved a minimum of 13 AAA regiments into South Vietnam from the north. Also moved in one SAM regiment (SA-2) into Khe Sanh area. NVA now has a divisional AAA headquarters in the Khe Sanh area and another AAA division hqs in northwest MR 3. The latter one was set up only a month or so ago.
- (5) Has been working on two new major supply routes, one within SVN and one in southern Laos. POL pipelines have also been extended into the A Chau valley. (SEE ATTACHED MAP)

N.B. You might add that whereas infiltration and supply movements slowed down during the rainy season -- as you might expect -- infiltration has picked up markedly in past one month (mostly to southern Laos, as happens at beginning of most dry seasons, and the signs indicate it will pick up to other areas shortly. There are also many indications within North Vietnam (near Ban Karai pass, for example) that logistic movements will also pick up as soon as the roads dry out.

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Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001300050003-6



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Exemption category 5B (1)(7)(3)
Declassification date impossible to determine

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